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Student Life

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# the PHOENIX

The Student Newspaper of Governors State University

Vol: 6 | Iss: 9

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## Final four presidential candidates visit GSU

By Steve Schering  
Phoenix staff reporter

Governors State University's search for a new president is winding down as all five finalists have completed their campus visits.

Each finalist was subject to meetings with the Search Committee, Board of Trustees, the faculty, students and external constituencies, among other things, over a two-day period.

Dr. Patricia Pierce Ramsey, Provost of Bowie State University in Maryland, visited from January 16-17. Ramsey said she was impressed with GSU's mission statement, particularly the words diversity and access.

"In my first interview I saw the search committee and it was the most diverse committee I've ever seen," Ramsey said. "This institution lives what it writes. The mission statement embodies a place I see that wants to make a difference, and I have a passion for making a difference."

Ramsey said she feels GSU could become a national resource for community college students.

"42 percent of community college students want to pursue a bachelors degree, but only 26 percent of those students transfer," Ramsey said. "[After] you become a national resource, GSU can become a leader in the transfer experience. If we can become a resource we will be sought after by students, faculty and money to improve GSU."

Dr. Ramsey has a vision that GSU can become a national resource and a leader in the transfer experience. Once this happens Ramsey expects GSU to be sought after by students, faculty and money to improve GSU, but she knows vision is nothing unless vision becomes reality.

"Vision is supposed to be shared in order for it to take life," added Ramsey. "Without it, it just becomes a



Phoenix photo by Steve Schering

GSU presidential hopefuls Dr. Patricia Pierce Ramsey (left) of Bowie State University in Maryland, and Dr. Vinton Thompson (right) Kean State University, New Jersey are two of the four candidates those came to GSU to make their case for the position. Candidates Dr. Daniel J. Julius and Dr. William J. Lowe are featured on page 2.

dream."

Dr. Vinton Thompson was the third candidate to tour the campus, visiting on Jan. 18-19. The Provost at Kean State University in New Jersey, Thompson gave a lecture about the challenges schools like GSU face.

One of the challenges mentioned was a decrease in grant aid to students, forcing those students to seek loans, thus putting the students in debt by the time they graduate. Diminished state support, fewer state and capital dollars from government and cutbacks in private sector tuition support were other examples Thompson mentioned.

The rise of what Thompson calls 'for-profit institu-

tions' is also a cause of concern for schools like GSU.

"Places like DeVry and the University of Phoenix mean there is more competition for adult students," said Thompson. "The University of Phoenix can move into Chicago and create competition."

"At Kean we have a high number of minority students, students who are attending college for the first time in their family and many immigrant students, just like GSU," he said.

GSU, according to Thompson, has many advantages that other institutions don't, and Thompson wants to take advantage of them.

See 'President' on page 2

## Survey reveals university costs repel students from first choice

By Michelle Gutknecht  
The Daily Vidette (Illinois State U.)

(U-WIRE) NORMAL, Ill. --

An annual national survey conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles reveals smaller percentages of college freshmen are attending their first choice schools, and even those accepted to their first choice are instead settling for their second or third choices.

The survey that yielded these results is The Freshman Survey, which has been administered by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program at UCLA for the last 40 years.

This year 271,441 freshmen

at 393 colleges across the nation were involved in the survey.

While students were asked a variety of questions about high school life and college decisions, a major point of interest revealed by the survey results dealt with deciding factors that determine what school a student chooses to attend.

John H. Pryor, director of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program and survey's lead author, said that the survey found that 67.3 percent of students polled were attending their first choice school, which is the second lowest percentage since researchers included this question on the survey in the mid-1970s.

The survey also found that, among those students attending their second choice schools, 48.9 percent had been accepted by their first choice school, but decided not to attend. According to Pryor, a significant reason for the decline in attendance of first choice schools is the cost.

"What the results of the survey seem to be telling us is that financial issues is the main reason that students accepted to their first choice schools choose not to attend," Pryor said.

Charles A. Boudreau, director of Financial Aid, said students and parents not being entirely well informed about the full cost of their university or college of choice may be a contributing

factor to this troublesome issue of finances.

"I try and emphasize to parents to go to the school's Web site early on and do research on overall cost, financial aid eligibility and scholarship opportunities."

"Then you can assess if the price of the school is workable for your family financially," Boudreau said.

Molly Arnold, director of Admissions, said that ISU probably loses students interested in coming here to other schools because of the extensive endowments that many smaller private schools have to entice students that are meeting their university needs. However, she also noted

that because of ISU's quality and affordability, it is a great package deal for students looking for the type of learning environment ISU provides.

"If we benefit from students coming here because we were more affordable than their first choice, I'm okay with that as long as the student who attends is comfortable with their decision to come to ISU."

"I really want our students to be happy with their decision, because if they're happy then they do well, and if they do well and enjoy themselves then they will tell others about their great experience at ISU."

"And there's a positive trickle down effect," Arnold said.



# the PHOENIX YOUR CAMPUS

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## the PHOENIX

The *Phoenix* is Governors State University's student newspaper. It is published twice monthly during the fall and winter, and monthly during the spring/summer.

We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the greater GSU population.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership.

All submissions should be signed, and include the student, faculty, or staff member's ID number, department, and phone number.

**Phoenix Student Newspaper**  
Governors State University  
1 University Parkway, Rm. E1500  
University Park, IL 60466

**Editorial:**  
708-534-4517  
-or-  
[phoenix@govst.edu](mailto:phoenix@govst.edu)

**Advertising:**  
708-534-3068  
-or-  
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**Editor:**  
Robert Wolff  
**Assistant Editor:**  
John Conrad  
**Staff Reporter:**  
Steve Schering  
**Photo & Design Editor:**  
Anthony Sanchez  
**Business Manager:**  
Sylvia Mcghee  
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## Americans don't like chemistry?

GSU chemistry professor Shelly Kumar wonders why there are no Americans in his class?

By John Conrad  
assistant editor

What makes courses at Governors State University interesting? Hmm...that's a tough one. Most would say the content, method of instruction, classroom discussions, etc.

Chemistry professor Shailendra Kumar has a less traditional answer to this question.

Kumar's Chemistry Software and Molecular Modeling course (CHEM 652) that met in Fall 2006 consisted completely of Indian students.

This class was comprised of 12 students in total, all but one are international students from India.

The "odd man out" as it were, just happened to have an Indian heritage as

well. The icing on the cake, Kumar himself is originally from India too.

"It is quite unique that the entire class was from India," commented Kumar.

This course, "covers use of various chemistry software for drawing organic, inorganic, and biological molecules in two and three dimensions, and for calculations involving molecular mechanics and molecular modeling to predict organic reaction mechanisms," according to the GSU catalog. That sounds easy enough, right?

In fact, there are 19 international students, all from India, in the Analytical Chemistry masters program at GSU. This is about half of the total students majoring in Analytical Chem, according to Kumar.

Originally most of the international students from India were mainly studying Computer Science.

However, about three years ago Kumar has reported seeing an influx of these international students entering Chemistry and other science programs at GSU.

Kumar does not feel like this is indicative of a decline in the American student population at GSU, but rather a supplemental surge of international students from India.

Not to say this course session didn't stand out as unique, but all the other courses at GSU are interesting as well.

This is, of course, due to content, method of instruction and classroom discussions.

## 'President': continued from page 1



Phoenix photo by Steve Schering

Provost Dr. William Lowe of Metropolitan State University, Minnesota and Dr. Daniel Julius, provost of Benedictine University, Illinois, were the final two candidates to visit GSU in the hopes of becoming its next president.

"We need to make the best of GSU's geographical advantage, being close to the city of Chicago. This area has some of the most affordable housing that could be used to bring in new faculty. Faculty is our most important resource we have and must be supported by technology. We should be a major South Suburban cultural center," he said. Dr. William Lowe, Provost at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota visited the following week. Dr. Lowe felt GSU needed to take a few 'action steps' to take advantage of their situation.

"We need to create access to a rigorous and rewarding educational experience, we need to deepen our links to two-year colleges and share our facilities," said Lowe. "Upper division universities will continue to hold a leadership role and GSU has a hometown advantage against out of state and online learning. Tuition is rising, but GSU is still affordable and it is critical to expand our access."

Lowe also cited the Metro-Alliance in Minnesota, in which Metropolitan State has an alliance with ten 2-year colleges in the twin cities area. "It is the entry point to a bachelors degree in our area."

"The academic experience is an

engaged experience," added Lowe.

"We are engaged with faculty, students and the community. We must be responsive to the needs and interest of the student communities."

When asked what he would do if offered the position of GSU President, Lowe responded, "I would try to learn very quickly. How do I help the university get resources and start to plan [for the future.]" Later that week the fifth and last finalist Dr. Daniel Julius, Provost at Benedictine University in Lisle, met with faculty and students.

"There are two things critical to a university: one, get people to think critically, and two, the love of lifelong learning. If you don't love lifelong learning then your education is useless. We need to continually educate ourselves."

Dr. Julius also cited the need for funds and a potential for some international competition in higher education. "We need to keep expanding our funding bases and sources of funds. We also need to find out what resources the faculty needs and get it to them."

"In the 1950's Ford and IBM never imagined competition may come from China, but 50 years later competition is here. American institutions are in a similar situation and we have to think of ourselves as a high performing

organization. We need to look to innovate and create to move the institution to the next level within the next decade."

Dr. Julius said it's hard to define what a leader is, but he knows a few traits one needs.

"Leaders listen a lot, care about the people, are honest, do things for the good of the organization or community, not for themselves and don't shy away from conflict. That's the kind of person I hope and expect I am," he said. Now the selection of the next GSU President begins.

"No decision is more critical to the future of the university than the selection of its president," stated Bruce Friefield, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Yet guided by our strategic priorities and motivated to choose someone who will be faithful to the mission of Governors State, I am confident that we will bring this search to a successful conclusion."

Dr. Elaine Maimon, Chancellor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, was the first candidate to receive a campus visit Jan. 9-10. For more information on the candidates and the selection process, visit the presidential search site at <http://www.govst.edu/presidentialsearch>.



# LCE Second Annual Cohort Group

By Anthony Sanchez  
design editor

According to the US Department of Education approximately 30% of the population holds a BA, 5 percent hold a Master's Degree, and 1.5 percent hold a PhD; sadly .03 percent are Latino reported Dr. Adriela Fernandez, Associate Professor of Liberal Arts at GSU.

That is why it is critical to identify and support the needs of Latino students at the undergraduate level. Most however, go unrecognized and eventually drop out of college because they do not have a either a good support network, or are unaware of services where help is available. Why?

For some Latinos the transition of migration is a difficult one, because parents of first generation families do not speak English well enough to fully take

advantage of available resources, or ask for help out of fear of being exploited, or deportation. That is why the Latino Center for Excellence (LCE) is here to serve the needs of the Latino student populous.

Created under a title V grant, Dr. Ramos-Hernandez, LCE Director, and Carlos Cantu MSW, Cohort Advisor formed the LCE in 2006.

The LCE mission is simple, "to guide Latino students in achieving academic success," but like any organization their doors are wide open to anyone interested in developing awareness in Latin culture and education. There is even a Computer Lab on the second floor near the LCE office providing support services for those needing assistance.

This year's LCE Orientation Seminar featured a host of guest lectures from around the campus; Dr. Adriela Fernandez,

Associate Professor, with her "Yes, I can do it," motivational speech.

Also attending were Dr. Ramos-Hernandez, LCE Director; Carlos Cantu, Cohort Advisor and mentorship, Latino cohort program assessment and identifying career assessment; and Dr. Sherilyn Poole, Dean of Student Life, awareness of student support services, tutoring/counseling, disabled student services, career services/resumes, mock interviews, career fairs, recreation and fitness center, federal and state funded programs to support.

All of these unique talents were under one roof to help counsel, promote mentorship, and remove myths for underrepresented classes of people (particularly Latino students). It was very hard to imagine the humble beginnings for many students, as one LCE member described her

experience (horrific as it was) of being slapped in the face by a teacher her first day at school because she could not speak English.

From that day forward, she vowed to master the language and someday teach her children the importance of learning English.

Transition for most LCE members were similar, facing challenges that no one should experience, not to mention the tremendous advantage of being able to communicate, particularly for women and minorities.

How do you ask for help in a foreign language if you don't know how?

It may seem simple to most... "learn the language" as you hear many people say, but the difficulties are so overwhelming it presents a challenge that some can never overcome due to a lack of means.

Others are trying to raise a

family and put food on the table and better themselves by attending classes one night a week, but imagine if you were in this situation, as bleak as it is... what would you do?

After reflecting the many stories that were shared at the meeting I was left feeling very guilty for not appreciating the fact I am a first generation Latino American and having full command of the language, however language barriers can be a double edge sword.

For some first, second, and third generation Latino's, learning only English is also a disadvantage as you can easily become "Americanized" and lose identity with your culture.

However, learning a happy medium is also something the LCE promotes as well. To find out more information please contact Dr. Catalina Ramos-Hernandez, or Carlos Cantu, at 708.534.4553.

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# GSU HOSTS FACULTY ART EXHIBIT

By Elyse Burke  
contributing writer

Have you ever wondered if the people you've entrusted with your education can actually practice what they preach or if your instructors can utilize the skills they are training you?

Well faculty and educators had the opportunity in January to showcase their artistic talents and abilities.

The Governor's State University Visual Arts Gallery featured artwork by regional art professors and educators from Jan. 15- Feb. 1.

"The show allows us the opportunity to show students what teachers can do. We are professors, but we are artists as well" said Javier Chavira, Assistant Professor of Art and Gallery Director.

GSU issued an open invitation to all faculty from surrounding area colleges to submit one piece to have displayed.

The exhibit featured pieces from professors from area colleges including Moraine Valley Community College, Elmhurst College, St. Xavier University, Lewis University and South Suburban College.

The exhibit culminated in a reception to celebrate the artists on Feb. 1 in the Elounge. The festivities included food and beverage and a chance to meet some of the featured artists.

"We have this show every two years," said Chavira.

"It's an opportunity for us to meet

some new and old faculty. It helps us keep our relationships strong."

Throughout the gallery the stark white of the walls was contrasted by the vitality and vividness of the different pieces of art. Installations varying from paintings to sculpture brought the gallery to life.

Thoughtful observers were commenting on the pieces and having artful discussions about impressions, technique, meaning and context.

"I was impressed. Some of these pieces should be in a museum somewhere. I could just get lost in some of them. They're fantastic," said Jennifer Groark, a student at Elmhurst College.

"Our conversations carried out into the lounge area where the reception was being held. Observers and artists were seated around tables having intellectual conversations and enjoying each other's company. I had a lot of fun," added Michael Kusy, a GSU undergraduate student.

The Gallery had seen a steady stream of people coming and going, and although no formal tally was taken, the guest sign-in book by the door had full pages.

"Come in and see us, we have shows all the time. Venture out and discover something," said Chavira.

The next exhibit schedule for the Art Gallery is the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition from Tuesday, February 13 through Friday, March 2.

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*Approaching Storm*, oil on canvas, 1886



Hale Woodruff, 1900-1980  
*Georgia Landscape*, oil on canvas, 1935-1935



Beauford Delaney, 1901-1979  
*Can Fire in the Park*, oil on canvas, 1946



Jacob Lawrence, b. 1917  
*The Library*, tempera on fiberboard, 1960



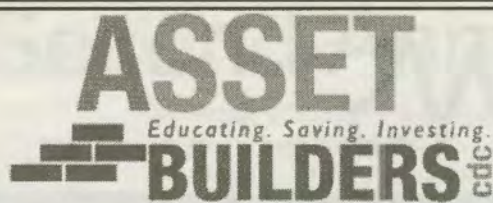
John Biggers, b. 1924  
*Shotgun, Third Ward #1*, tempera on canvas, 1966



Fredrick Brown, b. 1945  
*Stagger Lee*, oil on canvas, 1984

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310

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## Smokin' Aces: heavy action, not so much plot

By John Conrad  
assistant editor

How many high-caliber hit men does it take to kill one strung out, washed up, has-been, jerk, snitch, and seven-layer loser? Writer/Director Joe Carnahan (NARC) answers this question in his new action-packed ensemble, *Smokin' Aces*.

In the film, Buddy "Aces" Israel (Jeremy Piven) is a sleazy Las Vegas entertainer who has gotten on the bad side of Primo Sparazza, the last leader of the American mafia.

Israel turns to the FBI for protection in exchange for his testimony against Sparazza and his crew. Sparazza in turn places a \$1 million bounty on Israel, and hit men start coming out of the woodwork to collect. So who will collect the bounty by smokin' "Aces"? Will it be the three Tremor brothers, a trio of punk rock, degenerate misfits (Chris Pine, Kevin Durand and Maury Sterling)? Or perhaps torture specialist Pasquale Acosta (Nestor Carbonell)?

Maybe master of disguise Lazlo Soot (Tommy Flanagan) will collect the bounty. Or Georgia Sykes and Sharice Watters (Alicia Keys and Taraji P. Henson) may bring Israel down. That is of course if they can get to them before bail bondsmen Jack Dupree, "Pistol" Pete Deeks, and Hollis Elmore (Ben Affleck, Peter Berg, and Martin Henderson) bring him back to Vegas.

Can Israel's security team possibly protect him from seven of the world's most deadly assassins and a trio of bumbling bail bondsmen? Will two federal agents (Ryan Reynolds and Ray Liotta) save the FBI's case by getting to Israel before someone pours boxes of bullets in him?

Well, you're going to have to go see the movie to find out!

This movie is full of non-stop action sequences intermingled with spurts of comedy, as this unlikely band of characters meet up for a climactic battle atop the Nomad Hotel in Lake Tahoe.

Surprisingly, my favorite pair of killers in this film are Keys and Henson as liberated women turned fem fatales. They pulled off the part convincingly and contributed their fair share of laughs. Especially Keys, who I hope to see back on the silver screen soon. Also, Jason Bateman was excellent in the movie as lawyer Rip Reed. His over the top, manic performance was one of the best in the film, despite the fact that he probably received only about five-minutes of screen time.

I had a couple big problems with the movie. There are so many unique characters in the film, that writer Carnahan doesn't take enough time introducing them. It's hard to care for, or be drawn in by, a character you know so little about.

The end of the film was also borderline ridiculous, with a ten-minute exposition by FBI agent Stanley Locke (Andy Garcia). If you have to spend ten minutes explaining the end of the film to the audience, you probably didn't do a good job wrapping things up.

Despite some obvious drawbacks, I thought this movie was a highly stylish, action-packed romp. It's definitely a guy's movie (lot of action, not so much story), and is a lot of fun.

I give this film 2 1/2 stars out of 4, and recommend it to everyone who wants to see an off the wall action movie without having to think too much in the process.

# 20 Questions with...

Name? Marty Brooks

What do you do at GSU? I'm a public service worker. I restock the bathrooms, I clean, I clean some more, shovel a little snow, do a lot of walking.

How long have you been at GSU? 11 months.

What's your favorite color? Green.

Best movie ever made? Forrest Gump...It's got everything. Comedy, tragedy, romance.

People who know you say you're what? Easygoing.

If you were an animal, which one would you be? A dog.

What's your biggest fear? Something happening to my children.

Do you have any pets? My roommate has a basset hound named Max.

Complete this sentence: No one is

better than you when it comes to...?

Being a beach comber.

## GSU Service Worker



Marty Brooks

What would we find in your music collection? You would find Moody Blues, Neil Young. I've got everything from Sarah McLachlan, to the Beatles.

Do you have any hobbies? Yeah, I build coffee tables out of beach rocks. Your idea of relaxing is what? Playing golf or playing horseshoes on the beach.

Who's your favorite Bond. Oh, Sean Connery.

What's your life's motto. Respect people and listen to people and love everyone.

Complete this sentence. I'd be rich if I had a nickel every time I...? Laughed.

Who's a childhood hero of your's? I would say my sister.

What's the meaning of life? Compassion. It gets back to what I said before. Compassion, respect, and love.

By the time this paper is done, the Super Bowl will be over. Who will have won and by how much? The Bears by 3 points.

Three words that best describe you? Simple, liberal and compassionate.



# THIS IS NEWS

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## Hillary talks tough on Iraq

By Neal Sauerberg  
The Daily Iowan (U. Iowa)

(U-WIRE) CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa -- In a crowded home in southeastern Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., acknowledged that wherever she goes, her work attracts a lot of attention from people across the political spectrum.

"I do seem to engender strong feelings, both positive and negative," she said. The Jan. 27 stop in Cedar Rapids was part of a statewide campaign trip that marked her first visit to Iowa since 2003. In her two-day tour of the Hawkeye State, Clinton emphasized to voters her stances on various foreign-policy issues, while advocating for universal health care and touting her leadership strategies.

In the coming weeks in Congress, she said, she plans to work with members of both

political parties to create a statement of disapproval about President Bush's decision to raise the number of American troops in Iraq.

The senator said she supports some Democrats' call to put a stop to Bush's planned troop increase in Iraq by withholding congressional funding. Yet, she said, she doesn't favor a total freeze on financing the war. Her comments on the conflict also carried over into how America should deal with its allies.

"I do want to cut off funding for the Iraqi army because it's not doing its part," Clinton told The Daily Iowan. "We aren't going to be funding forces to be part of a sectarian war."

Meanwhile, when questioned about how to best deal with Iran, Clinton said Bush made a major mistake by "outsourcing" diplomacy to Europe and the international community.

The senator said American-

Soviet relations during the Cold War show that nations cannot refuse to communicate if they hope to peacefully coexist. She called on the Bush administration to begin immediate bilateral discussions with Iran.

Those lines of communication need to extend to the Iraqis as well, said Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, who attended the Jan. 27 event.

With the wide range of international issues facing the United States, Clinton said she feels she is uniquely qualified to lead the nation.

"I know how dangerous the world is," she said. "I'm a senator from New York, after all." Clinton held a town hall meeting in Des Moines on the afternoon of Jan. 27, and while there, she traveled door-to-door and introduced herself to prospective voters.

The senator wrapped up her stop to Iowa by conversing with

Democratic supporters in Davenport on Sunday morning.

In Cedar Rapids, Dale Todd, the father of an epileptic child, held back tears while praising the senator for supporting the Lifespan Respite Care Act.

"Before the bill passed, there was not much money in the [federal] budget for epilepsy research," Todd said.

The bipartisan legislation, co-sponsored by Sen. John Warner, R-Va., received Congressional approval in December. It aims to help disabled Americans and their caregivers by providing states with more local options and funding.

Despite her efforts to gain support from Iowans, Clinton must make up ground if she hopes to win the state in 2008, recent poll numbers show.

A Zogby telephone poll conducted on Jan. 15 and 16 put the senator fourth among prospects for the Democratic presidential

nomination in 2008.

Roughly 16 percent of likely Iowa caucus-goers said they would support Clinton in her run for her party's nomination.

Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., leads the Zogby polls at 27 percent.



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**'..... Peer mentorship ... provides students unparalleled leadership experience. By exploring the strengths and challenges of peer mentorship, educators can facilitate student success in very powerful ways.' (Dr. Heath Boice - Pardee, 2006).**

Working with Prairie State College, Joliet Community College, Kankakee Community College, and South Suburban College, the Student Affairs and Services Division of Governors State University is preparing to establish a Minority Male Retention Program. Based on the tenets and objectives of the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), the GSU Project will incorporate the three pronged approach to mentoring to help ensure male students' success in their academic endeavors.

The SAAB approach includes peer-to-peer, advisor-to-student, and older student to younger student transactions. Successful students will provide guidance, advice, and support to their peers and younger students to help ensure their academic success and achievement. Other members of the college/university communities (faculty, staff, administrators) can also be effective mentors and are encouraged to participate in the Project. The SAAB primary objective is "to enhance the experiences and 'ENGAGE' Black and Latino males in colleges/universities and high schools around the country --- in order to see them PERSIST and GRADUATE" (Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe).

Dr. Bledsoe will be at Governors State University on February 28, 2007, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Hall of Honors. Dr. Bledsoe will describe the operation and goals of the Student African American Brotherhood and provide direction and guidance for developing the GSU Minority Male Retention Project.

Please attend this session with Dr. Bledsoe to learn how you can participate and make important contributions to the academic success of GSU minority male students.

Please email Sherilyn W. Poole, Interim Dean for Student Co-curricular Activities and Services (s-poole@govst.edu) to indicate your attendance. If you are interested in participating in the mentoring program but cannot attend this meeting, please also email Dr. Poole indicating your interest.

## The library is still looking for Friends

Your donation will contribute to the enhancement of the services and products offered by the GSU Library. Your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law and will also count toward the GSU staff campaign held in February. The first meeting of the Friends group is scheduled for February 6, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Contact Lydia Morrow Ruetten at ext. 4116 for more information.

## Let us know!

Has the library offered a service or had a product that you found helpful? Has a particular resource helped you out of a jam? What about being able to do your research at home? If the library has impacted your life we would like to hear from you. For a free gift, send your testimonial to Lydia Morrow Ruetten in the Library or at L-Morrow@govst.edu.



# An apology can only do so much

By Robert Wolff  
editor

On the 15th of January of this year, a white lawmaker from Virginia's House of Delegates said that black citizens of America should "get over" the issue of slavery instead of seeking an apology.

Frank D. Hargrove, 80, went on to ask, "Are we going to force Jews to apologize for killing Christ?"

The reaction to Hargrove's comments stemming from a resolution to offer an official apology from the state of Virginia for its participation in slavery was not surprising.

Black citizens, many of whom have descendants who were owned as property and whose subsequent families suffered from the post-slavery attitudes of many whites in America did not warm up to Hargrove's

suggestion.

Others, including ordinary white citizens and even some Virginia lawmakers who gasped at Hargrove's comments wanted nothing to do with his opinions.

"I think your skin was a little too thin," he retorted to one such gasping lawmaker.

Those comments made by Hargrove on, of all days, Martin Luther King's birthday and not too long before Black History Month may, for many, spell the necessity of keeping in mind the ills of slavery and remembering the contributions of black America to our nation.

But isn't there something missing here?

We observe Black History month and the contributions of black Americans to our society as a whole because throughout much of American general history, those contributions have been ignored or marginalized.

History has what historians call "historical inertia."

Basically, it means the attitudes, beliefs, programs and actions of a government or society gain enough momentum that when those factors are done away with or lose much of their support formally, there still lingers some of that sentiment informally.

The idea is similar to a train that puts on the brakes. It does not stop right away.

Jim Crow laws are a perfect example of this. Even after the formal laws supporting segregation were ended, people still held certain beliefs about black citizens. Those beliefs resulted in a hidden, subtle and, therefore more insidious form of racism.

Furthermore, although formal institutions have now for some time abandoned the practice of formal racism and segregation in America, they have done little to

make substantial amends for those actions, actions which have clearly held back a people not given the same advantages to compete as their fellow citizens.

Affirmative Action was supposed to help heal those wounds and help bridge the gap made by government-supported racism.

However, even now we see the backlash against such programs, even though by itself Affirmative Action could never alone create parity among the socio-economic and educational levels of black and white citizens. An apology for slavery is nice. An apology for segregation in addition is even better.

But words don't create infrastructure. Words don't build schools. Words don't hire more teachers and more police. Words only go so far.

After that is the actual work of making sure all our American citizens have what they need to

be successful.

If we want to truly celebrate Black History Month and give it real meaning and purpose, then we should begin the work of making sure all our people have the tools they need to make this country an even better place to live ten, twenty or thirty years down the road.

What we need to "get over" is the idea that everyone can simply pull themselves up by their bootstraps without consideration of what economic and social conditions one comes from.

People are, of course, ultimately responsible for their own lives, but they can't do it alone and the significant disparity between black and white citizens does have something to do with our shameful, racist past.

We need to recognize it, take responsibility and bring everyone up.

## Barack Obama has the audacity of hope

By Matt Wisniewski  
Daily Toreador (Texas Tech)

(U-WIRE) LUBBOCK, Texas -- Last summer's most anticipated speaker in the Congressional Intern Lecture Series was a senator for less than two years -- his inexperience was a blemish in the eyes of the beltway establishment. But to the 1,500 starry-eyed interns in attendance, Barack Obama spoke with a vision and understanding not heard in the city Hollywood sent Mr. Smith to in 1939.

I was one of a few attendees who did not have the book "Dreams from My Father" nestled in his arms, ready for Obama to sign. Failing to get his John Hancock, I decided to buy his second book, "The Audacity of Hope," and read it over the break. I just finished reading it, again.

America wants a politician to reach across party lines to bring about needed reforms. This did not occur under Republican control.

The Republicans' success was predicated on a basic idea: attack the messenger not the message. Criticize the war -- a swift boat group will appear. Speak out to the media -- rumors and innuendo magically become truth.

It worked great for the Republicans. Twelve straight years of national dominance were proudly shown in their display case.

Regrettably, the latter end of aforementioned saying -- the message -- showed the true stripes of what Republican supremacy cost America.

Their policies' catastrophes dominate the front page. Our borders are not secure, the federal debt continues

to skyrocket, and Bush has lost all credibility in Middle Eastern affairs (especially in Iraq).

What many American heartlanders and secularists realize is this era of cut-throat partisanship requires a politician who demonstrates civility and diplomacy. Obama is the light at the end of the tunnel.

America's politically disillusioned youth have not gravitated toward a politico since Bobby Kennedy. Obama's new-aged political approach seeks to reclaim this constituency that has become uncaring as the result of the poisons of lobbyists, fundraisers and absolutism.

The tone of a book is set by the cover art. The colors are neutral and inviting. Obama's eyes stare at you from a face that has not been sullied by Washington's style of excess. His posture, leaning confidently forward, conveys a personal message he wants to share with you -- a belief in your ability to be the change America's needs.

The book starts not by what separates us, but by what Americans have in common: "We need a new kind of politics; one that can excavate and build upon those shared understanding that pull us together." Notice how similar this sounds to bipartisanship.

Obama recognizes the importance of a differing point of view in political dialogue, whereas today's politician sees this as a divider: "Our democracy might work a bit better if we recognize that all of us possess values that are worth of respect."

Most importantly, he differentiates between principles (values) and dogma (ideology): "Values are faith-

fully applied to the facts before us, while ideology overrides whatever facts call theory into question." Come Aug. 25, 2008, when the Democrat National Conventional begins, I expect the party's nominee and America's next president to be Barack Hussein Obama.

To appreciate this man's brilliance, pick up his book and dissect it like a generation before us did with Barry Goldwater's "The Conscience of a Conservative." When done properly, politics can bring people together. It can instill pride in us. Then you see George W. Bush on TV -- the man who made Americans feel ashamed of their national government. America's best and worst in the same city.

Successful politicians must reach out to all their bases. As one respected Republican staffer used to tell me, "Politics is the art of compromise."

Our nation is diverse in its people and interests. Agriculture is very important to U.S. Congressional District 19 (27 West Texas counties including Lubbock); 30 percent of America's cotton is produced here. Social issues are extremely important to evangelical Christians. Global warming is extremely important to your eco-friendly voter. Businesses care about taxes, and elderly residents are concerned over Social Security and Medicare.

America's executive-branch officials have failed to display the fortitude needed to compromise, and our country is hurting as a result. I know where my vote's going come March 4, 2008, (Texas' Democratic Presidential Primary). After you read this book, you'll think the same.

Sudoku #2

3	6	9	1	8	5	7	4	2
2	5	4	7	9	6	8	1	3
8	7	1	3	4	2	9	5	6
5	4	2	6	7	1	3	9	8
6	3	8	9	5	4	2	7	1
1	9	7	8	2	3	4	6	5
4	2	3	5	1	9	6	8	7
9	8	5	2	6	7	1	3	4
7	1	6	4	3	8	5	2	9

Crossword Answers  
from puzzle on page 8

WELK	JAMAL	TROY	DRAKE
EDIE	EXILE	ROPE	EAMON
ANEGOTIST	ISAMAN	AMEND	
RAN	VEST	IDYL	ORANGE
PAR	CAGE	ANT	
SOIL	WHOTHINK	STHATIF	
REBA	RIPE	NEATO	LOCO
ELENA	IVY	ERE	FAKIR
ABSOLUTE	CUP	ARGUMENT	
DYE	ASH	GALOOT	AMONG
HEHADNT	BEEN		
CROCE	UPDATE	RG	ARK
CHILDREN	YES	POSE	IDON
RAVES	NGO	PAD	ADELE
AREA	FRUIT	FLUE	EPEE
BORN	PEOPLE	WOULD	FATS
ALL	AHEM	CAL	
ROBERT	HONE	AMOK	EWE
ADORE	HAVE	WONDERED	WHY
RODIN	ALEC	KAZAN	NEAR
ERECT	YORK	SEEDY	ARTE

**The Phoenix welcomes letters to the editor and/or editorials. Letters can be submitted to [phoenix@govst.edu](mailto:phoenix@govst.edu). Letters may be edited for space or content and must include your name and a contact number or email address by which you can be reached.**



# What's Up

8

02 | 05 | 07

## Sudoku #2

	6				5	7		2
		4		9	6		1	
8	7	1	3		2			
5				7	1	3		
	3			5			7	
		7	8	2				5
			5		9	6	8	7
	8		2	6		1		
7		6	4					2

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## Super Crossword

SELF-POSSESSED

- ACROSS**
- 1 Myron  
Floran's  
boss
- 5 Malcolm —  
Warner
- 10 Priam's  
kingdom
- 14 Daddy duck
- 19 Adams or  
Sedgwick
- 20 Napoleon's  
fate
- 21 Something  
to skip?
- 22 De Valera  
of Ireland
- 23 Start of a  
remark by  
Dan Post
- 26 Rectify
- 27 Sprinted
- 28 Part of a  
suit
- 29 Pastoral  
poem
- 30 Sherbet  
flavor
- 31 Norm
- 32 Rib —
- 34 One of  
"Them"
- 35 Dirty
- 37 Part 2 of  
remark
- 45 Colleague  
of Dolly and  
Loretta
- 46 Mature
- 47 Peachy-  
keen
- 48 Plumb crazy
- 49 "Maria —"  
("41 song)
- 51 College  
growth
- 52 Before, to  
Byron
- 53 Mendicant  
monk
- 54 Utter
- 56 See 90
- 59 Dispute
- 61 Pigment
- 62 Hibachi  
residue
- 63 Oaf
- 65 "Love —"  
the Ruins  
(75 film)
- 66 Part 3 of  
remark
- 69 "I Got a  
Name"
- 73 Add info
- 74 Mil. group
- 76 Genesis  
vessel
- 79 "Little —"  
("64 hit)
- 81 "Be my  
guest"
- 82 God with a  
trident
- 84 Storms
- 85 — Dinh  
Diem
- 87 Paw part  
of Astaire
- 89 Field of  
knowledge
- 90 With 56  
Across,  
common  
appetizer
- 92 Chimney  
part
- 93 Duel tool
- 94 Part 4 of  
remark
- 97 Domino or  
Waller
- 98 Herriot title  
start
- 99 "Excuse  
me"
- 100 Western st.
- 101 Mugabe of  
Zimbabwe
- 105 Whetstone
- 107 Out of  
control
- 109 She's a  
sheep date
- 112 Venerate
- 113 End of  
remark
- 117 "The Kiss"  
sculptor
- 118 One of the  
Waugh's
- 119 "East of  
Eden"
- 120 Imminent
- 121 Upright
- 122 Michael of  
"Cabaret"
- 123 Unkempt
- 124 "Visi d'—"  
("Tosca"  
aria)
- DOWN**
- 1 Sport
- 2 O'Brien or  
Skinner
- 3 Mortgage,  
e.g.
- 4 Beer barrel
- 5 Baseball's  
Derek
- 6 Shaft
- 7 Freshen a  
fuchsia
- 8 Cover girl  
Carol
- 9 Kappa  
keepsake
- 10 Auto
- 11 Actress  
Schneider
- 12 Fall
- 13 Craving
- 14 Lack
- 15 — Lama  
Ding Dong  
("61 tune)
- 16 Prayer  
finale
- 17 Hong —
- 18 "The  
NeverEnding  
Story" author
- 24 — Office
- 25 Regret  
audibly
- 30 In the know
- 31 Nero's  
instrument
- 32 Duplicate
- 33 Savored the  
seitan
- 34 Fall flower
- 35 David of  
"Dark  
Shadows"
- 36 Too tubby
- 37 Twist and  
turn
- 38 Bee flat?
- 39 Bom
- 40 You'll get a  
kick out of it
- 41 Texas  
landmark
- 42 Symbol
- 43 Buttercream,  
e.g.
- 44 Laramie or  
Sumter
- 45 Devour
- 50 — carte
- 53 "Fee, Fi,  
Fo, — . . ."
- 55 Leading  
man?
- 56 Container
- 57 Arm bones
- 58 Annie of  
"Designing  
Women"
- 60 Jets and  
Sharks
- 63 Opening
- 64 UK honor
- 67 Delayed
- 68 Worn down
- 69 Cuget  
consort
- 70 Mississippi  
or Missouri
- 71 New York  
city
- 72 Bk.
- 75 It's in the  
bag
- 76 Skilled
- 77 Romeo and  
Juliet
- 78 Banjo locale
- 79 Grouch
- 80 Register
- 82 Hogan or  
Hindemith
- 83 Perfect
- 86 Word with  
baby or  
snake
- 87 Horner's  
fruit
- 90 Sensed
- 91 New Jersey  
town
- 92 Adversary
- 95 One who  
no's best?
- 96 "What a  
relief!"
- 97 Charlatan
- 100 Uncool
- 101 Hard to find  
("64 hit)
- 102 Miasma
- 103 Portend
- 104 Rohmer or  
Carmen
- 105 Sign of  
sanctity
- 106 "Glad All —"  
("64 hit)
- 107 Carpenter's  
tool
- 108 Knight's  
quaff
- 109 Kind of  
pitcher
- 110 "Huh?"
- 111 Bronte hero-  
ine
- 113 Horse  
hash
- 114 Endorses
- 115 Duncan's  
denial
- 116 "Jurassic  
Park"  
stuff

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19				20					21				22				
23			24						25				26				
27				28					29				30				
		31				32	33					34					
	35	36				37	38				39	40		41	42	43	44
45						46			47					48			
49			50		51				52				53				
54				55			56	57	58		59		60				
61				62			63			64			65				
				66		67						68					
69	70	71	72			73					74		75		76	77	78
79						80			81			82		83			
84					85		86				87			88			
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94				95				96						97			
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101	102	103	104			105	106				107	108			109	110	111
112						113				114	115			116			
117						118				119				120			
121						122				123				124			

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## 18th Annual National African-American Read-In

### Call For Readers!

Join over a million readers in celebration of Black History Month—we are looking for readers to participate in the African American Read-In. Select an excerpt of a book, poem, or other literary work to read by an African American author.

Monday, February 5, 2007, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Sherman Recital Hall, Governors State University. Please email [r-muhammad@govst.edu](mailto:r-muhammad@govst.edu) or call 708-534-6974 to sign up or receive additional information. All are invited to participate.

## Distinguished Lecture Series

Dr. Peng Ning, Associate Professor

Cyber Defense Laboratory Department of Computer Science, North Carolina State University Lecture on Computing Security.

Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 6:30p.m., Room D34115

Dr. Ning is a top teacher and researcher in computing security. He is supervising and has supervised dozens of Ph.D students. He teaches "Information System Security", "Network Security" and "Advanced Network Security". For more information Contact Clare Tang [x-tang@govst.edu](mailto:x-tang@govst.edu)

## Master of Social Work Information Session: February 10

Join faculty and staff from the College of Health Professions to learn about the Master of Social Work Program. The information session will be held on Saturday, February 10, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the E-Lounge.

Call 708.235.2178 for information.

## Abraham Lincoln's Birthday Observed: February 12

All university offices will be closed and classes will not be held on Monday, February 12 in observance of Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

## National Board Certification Information Session at GSU

An information session on National Board Certification and a graduate level pre-candidacy course will be held on Saturday, February 10, from 10 a.m. to noon at Governors State University in University Park.

Educators are invited to learn about the process and benefits of earning National Board Certification as well as the importance and advantages of the 3-hour graduate level course to be offered at the university in spring/summer, 2007.

The information session will be held in room D34050, on the university's main campus, 1 University Parkway, University Park. For more information and to register for this free session, call (708) 235-7579.

If you wish to advertise in the Phoenix, please call Business Manager, Sylvia McGhee at 708-534-3068, or e-mail her at [phoenixad@govst.edu](mailto:phoenixad@govst.edu).

Fall Recreation / Fitness Center hours

Monday - Friday: 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday: Noon - 4 p.m.

Closed Sundays during the Spring/Summer trimester.

Fall library hours at GSU

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Friday - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.